

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 11914 160100Z

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

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R 151500Z OCT 73 ZDK
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4778
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION OECD PARIS

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TAGS: EGEN, EEC, UK

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER HEATH'S COMMENTS ON BRITAIN
AND THE EC

BEGIN SUMMARY. IN HIS SPEECH ON OCTOBER 13 TO THE FINAL
SESSION OF THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY CONFERENCE AT
BLACKPOOL, PRIME MINISTER HEATH PROPOSED THAT THE EC
MEMBER STATES SHOULD HOLD SUMMIT MEETINGS TWICE A YEAR TO
SET BROAD POLICY OBJECTIVES. HEATH ALSO TRIED TO
COUNTER SOME OF THE BRITISH ELECTORATE'S CURRENT
CRITICISMS OF THE COMMUNITY BY POINTING OUT THAT IT IS
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PAGE 02 LONDON 11914 160100Z

"ON THE MOVE" AND THAT COMMUNITY POLICIES CAN BE

CHANGED AND DEVELOPED TO MEET BRITAIN'S NEEDS. END
SUMMARY.

1. HEATH PROPOSED THAT THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF THE EC MEMBER STATES SHOULD MEET TWICE A YEAR WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION. "OUR PURPOSE IN MEETING WOULD BE TO LAY DOWN THE BROAD DIRECTION OF EUROPEAN POLICY, TO KEEP UP THE MOMENTUM TOWARDS GREATER UNITY IN FOREIGN POLICY, TO HELP FORWARD THE WORKING OUT OF COMMON INTERNAL POLICIES WITHIN THE COMMUNITY, AND SO TO AGREE ON THE STRATEGIC ISSUES FACING THE COMMUNITY, SO AS TO AVOID THE DAMAGING CONTROVERSIES WHICH SO OFTEN APPEAR TO DOG THE DELIBERATIONS IN BRUSSELS."

2. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THE COMMUNITY HAD MADE CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS SINCE BRITAIN BECAME A MEMBER. BY THE END OF THE YEAR, MAJOR DECISIONS WILL HAVE TO BE TAKEN REGARDING ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION, AND SOCIAL AND REGIONAL POLICY. AS A RESULT OF LAST MONTH FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING IN COPENHAGEN, THE COMMUNITY AND THE US HAVE AT LAST STARTED TO BUILD "THE TWIN PILLARS ON WHICH OUR FRIENDSHIP CAN REST."

3. THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS NOT SATISFIED WITH THE COMMUNITY AS IT STANDS, HEATH SAID. THE COMMUNITY HAS TO CHANGE AND DEVELOP ACCORDING TO THE NEEDS OF ITS MEMBERS. THE UK WILL NOT BRING ABOUT THE CHANGES IT WANTS BY "FEEBLE BLUSTERING" OR "SULKING AT A DISTANCE," AS THE LABOUR PARTY DOES. "WE SHALL ACHIEVE THESE CHANGES BY PERSUADING OUR PARTNERS THAT THEY ARE NECESSARY IF WE ARE TO ACHIEVE OUR COMMON PURPOSE. THAT IS THE MEANING OF THE COMMUNITY . . . THE COMMUNITY IS ON THE MOVE AND BRITAIN AS A NEW MEMBER IS PROVIDING A GREAT DEAL OF THE IMPETUS."

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